March 5, 1974

Mr. Harold Dorland
733 82nd Avenue, N.E.
Minneapolis, Minn. 55432

Dear Hal:

So nice to hear from you, know you are alive and well in Minneapolis, and still interested in us.

I am in no way offended by your letter and shall attempt to answer it as fully as possible. Feel free to send it to whomever you figure is worth worrying about.

As you know, trying to prove you've never been connected with the CIA in any way, shape or form is like attempting to answer the question, "When did you quit beating your wife?"

Also, I cannot speak for Bob. However, so far as I know, he is completely "clean". But, again, how does he prove it?

For your information, there is enclosed a copy of my bibliography, which is current and accurate.

Question No. 1: I have never had any kind of employment or other relationship with the CIA. My only "brush" with them in any manner was when I was attempting to get two photos from them of "Oswald" in Mexico. I finally got them from the Dept. of Justice after filing the FOI suit.

Question No. 2: I have never had a contractual or agent relationship with the CIA.

Question No. 3: Negative. 90% of the funds have come out of my pocket; the remainder in dribs and drabs from other private individuals. However, if CIA offered us a million dollars I would be in favor of accepting it with the hope of having sufficient funds to solve one or more of the cases. Don't hold your breath!!

Question No. 4: The CIA asked me if I knew the identity of "Oswald" in Mexico. I refused to help them. That was our only contact with the CIA. They did probably send representatives to our Georgetown seminar and probably got our newsletters. So what?

Question No. 5: Same as No. 4, none.

As to Louis Russell, he was an old friend, down and out. During the period 1970-73, he would come to my office and ask me to "swap" checks because he didn't have a bank account and cashing employers' checks in distant parts of the area was difficult. My checks were cashable at Riggs, three blocks away. He did this frequently, usually for $50 or $100. Sometimes, he got a simple cash handout when he was really up against it.

One or more of these checks were on McCord Associates, according to Lou; most were on other employers' accounts. However, once I deposited the checks, they would be returned by Riggs to the bank on which they were drawn. I have no record of them; only a record that I personally drew checks to Louis Russell on X occasions, which proves nothing.

When I got checks from Lou, I would deposit them to my personal account or to the CTIA account. I wish more people did. However, the donations were mine, not Russell's or McCord's.

I had never met McCord until March, 1973, and "McCord Associates" would have meant absolutely nothing to me, had I stopped to examine Lou's checks.

However, try to explain all this to the "crazies." If you wish to try, be my guest, but be aware that destroying the hopes and wishes of nuts does not win you their friendship.

Consider one other thing: if there is one guy in our group that might reasonably cause paranoid doubts, it would be you: 1) married to CIA; 2) engaged in intelligence work at State Department for years; 3) etc., etc., to your heart's content. How does one know that you aren't station chief in Minneapolis? I want to go on; the point, obviously, is how do you <u>disprove</u> it?

It is possible that our CIA is being manipulated by the other one, or some other government agency. I have my suspicions. But, if so, so what? We can't do anything about it. And we have more work than we can do and not enough time to waste on things we can't change.

New subject: I have a delightful cousin Emily Seesel in St. Paul and you should look her up. It is Mrs. James Seesel in the telephone book. She is liberal, but "straight", so go easy at first. Really, she and her husband are both delightful and you'll enjoy them.

Let us know how the local "station" is doing and what your present "cover" is.

Warm regards,

Bernard Fensterwald, Jr.

BF:crr